

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 10, 23 and 24 have been amended. Claim 18 has been cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 10-15 and 17 and 19-24 are pending and under consideration.

Using independent claim 1 as an example, this claim recites each of the ground contacts has a pair of contact parts; one of the pair of contact parts is aligned with substrate contact parts of the multiple pairs of signal contacts arranged in one of the arrays; and the other one of the pair of contact parts is aligned with substrate contact parts of the multiple pairs of signal contacts arranged in another one of the two arrays. Present FIG. 3 illustrates these features, for example.

In contrast, Billman discloses a beam 24 having a middle portion 38 which does not have contact parts as claimed. Billman, FIGS. 6-8.

Independent claim 10 (rejected under Morlion) recites similar features. However, Morlion illustrates a contact plate unit 67. Morlion, FIG. 13. However, the contact plate unit 67 does not have contact parts as claimed.

Neither Hosler nor Matsumoto overcome these deficiencies in Billman and Morlion.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Serial No. 10/613,028

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: 

Michael J. Badagliacca
Registration No. 39,099

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501